

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for distributing a content object over a network system,
2 the method comprising step of:
3 detecting a request for the content object associated with one of a plurality
4 of content providers coupled to a network that uses a first transport protocol;
5 receiving the content object at a node of the network from the one of the
6 plurality of content providers;
7 buffering the content object at a point distant from the one of the plurality
8 of content providers and the content receiver; and
9 transporting the content object between the node and a content receiver
10 with a second transport protocol, wherein the first transport protocol is different from the
11 second transport protocol.

1 2. The method for distributing the content object over the network
2 system as recited in claim 1, wherein the buffer stores at least a portion of the content
3 object for use by a plurality of content receivers.

1 3. The method for distributing the content object over the network
2 system as recited in claim 1, wherein the transporting step further comprises steps of:
3 selecting a channel on a conductor with multiple channels corresponding
4 to frequency ranges;
5 multiplexing a plurality of content objects into a data stream; and
6 modulating the data stream onto a carrier frequency within the channel.

1 4. The method for distributing the content object over the network
2 system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of communicating to the content
3 receiver information that indicates how to filter the content object from the incoming
4 information.

1 5. The method for distributing the content object over the network
2 system as recited in claim 1, wherein the content object comprises at least one of audio
3 data and video data.

1 6. The method for distributing the content object over the network
2 system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

12. The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the second transport protocol comprises packetized content object constituents in a multiplexed data stream where the constituents are distinguished within the multiplexed datastream with program identifiers and are reconstituted into the content object in synchronization using embedded time stamps.

13. The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises an Internet protocol packet network to transport content objects separate from the Internet.

14. The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

15. A content distribution system for coupling content between a content provider and a content receiver, the content distribution system comprising:

- a node that relays a content object that originated from the content provider;
- a network coupling the content provider to the node, wherein the network uses a first transport protocol;
- a data channel coupling the node to the content receiver, wherein content object is transported with the data channel using MPEG-2 transport protocol.

16. The content distribution system for coupling content between the content provider and the content receiver as recited in claim 15, further comprising an access control system that controls access to the wide area network.

17. The content distribution system for coupling content between the content provider and the content receiver as recited in claim 15, further comprising:

- a multiplexer coupled to the node, and
- a modulator coupled to the data channel.

18. The content distribution system for coupling content between the content provider and the content receiver as recited in claim 15, wherein the content receiver receives the content object encoded in a MPEG format.

1 25. The method for distributing the content object over the network
2 system as recited in claim 20, wherein the network comprises an Internet protocol packet
3 network to transport content objects separate from the Internet.

1 26. The method for distributing the content object over the network
2 system as recited in claim 20, wherein the network comprises the Internet.